

## THE PURPOSE OF THE BUILDINGS

In the architect's original conception of these buildings and in his conferences with the Board of Trustees and the Building Committee, there was the thought to make these buildings representative of the membership in their design, in their decoration, and in their furnishings, rather than to follow some classical form; and it was in this that the coöperation mentioned before has resulted in the County Medical Association now having a library and a permanent quarters that leaves little room for criticism from any of the large membership of well over two thousand. The buildings are unique, they are modern, they are entirely different, yet no discordant note is struck. They answer the physical needs of the Association and they express that intangible something—the spirit of the Association.

1925 Wilshire Boulevard.

### THE BARLOW MEDICAL LIBRARY, AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE LIBRARY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By MARY E. IRISH  
*Los Angeles*

THE seed from which the Barlow Medical Library grew was sown in 1897. At that time the population of Los Angeles was about 86,000, and there were 303 physicians registered in Los Angeles County.

#### THE FIRST MEDICAL LIBRARY IN LOS ANGELES

A medical school founded in 1886, as the "College of Medicine of the University of Southern California," had its buildings on the west side of Buena Vista Street, between Ord and Alpine streets, "only a few blocks," to quote from an early bulletin, "from the heart of the city." One of the college buildings was the Hendryx Laboratory, and in it a room had been set aside for a library.

The original sponsor of this medical school library was the late Dr. Stanley P. Black, professor of pathology in the institution, after whom the Stanley P. Black Memorial Lecture, now annually given in Pasadena, is named.

Dr. Wilbur A. Hendryx, who donated the money for the erection of the Hendryx Building, made the first gift toward the new library, a collection of about fifty volumes; and Dr. Milbank Johnson, in 1900, presented approximately 1,000 volumes of journals. The collection was known at the time as the "Hendryx Medical Reference Library," and Doctor Johnson was appointed librarian. All the early accessions were gifts from physicians who were either members of the faculty of the old College of Medicine, or friends of faculty members.

The history of the Library, from 1897 to 1906, is that of many libraries: a constant addition of

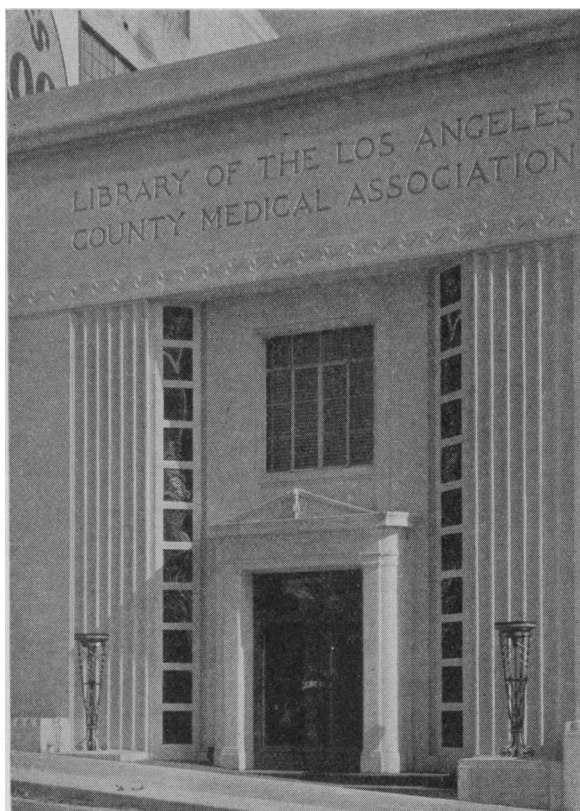


Fig. 1.—Entrance to the Library Building of the Los Angeles County Medical Association at 634 South Westlake. The cornerstone at the lower right hand pillar has inscribed upon it: "THIS STONE WAS SET BY WALTER JARVIS BARLOW, M. D., JUNE 21, MCMXXXIV."

books and journals, with a consequent need for more and more space in which to properly house them.

#### THE BARLOW MEDICAL LIBRARY

This need was met, in 1906, by the erection of a library building by Dr. Walter Jarvis Barlow—a member of the faculty of the College of Medicine of the University of Southern California, and later its Dean—at 742 Buena Vista Street



Fig. 2.—North side of library, showing entrances to reference libraries and stack room. The Galen in the alcove is a Carrara marble, sculptured by Tullio Lombardi (1600), and presented to the Barlow library by Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow.

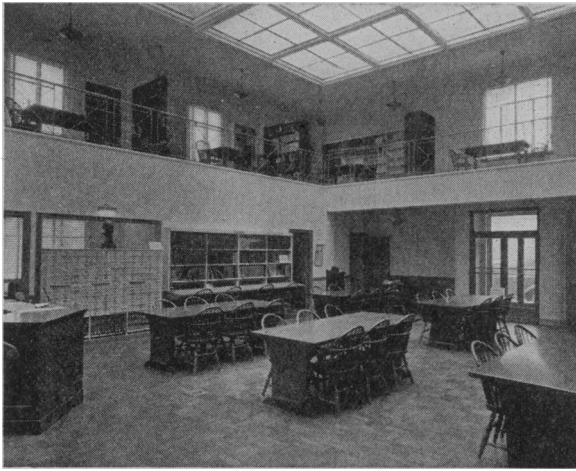


Fig. 3.—South side of the library, showing the west entrance from 634 Westlake Avenue.

(now North Broadway) and opposite the College. In that year, inspired by the prospect of a new building, forty-eight physicians pledged themselves, as patrons, to pay \$25 annually for the support of "the Medical Library built by Doctor Barlow." An association, named in the doctor's honor, was thus formed, and a constitution and by-laws adopted under which, with some amendments, the library has been conducted until this year, 1934, when it was taken over to become the central nucleus of the "Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association."

The Barlow Medical Library plan provided for memberships of three kinds: patron, annual, and associate. Later on, life and honorary memberships were added. Membership entitled the holder to the privilege of borrowing books and journals. To the patrons went the responsibility of electing officers and trustees, who controlled the Library's policy. From the beginning, the library building was always open to physicians and students for reading and study, whether they were members of the Association or not.

An invitation to the opening of the new building, in 1907, was issued in the name of the Barlow Medical Library Association, to which were appended the names of the trustees, Dr. Milbank Johnson, president; Dr. Stanley R. Black, secretary; and Doctors George L. Cole, Fitch C. E. Mattison, B. F. Church, John R. Haynes, and W. A. Edwards, followed by a roll of forty-seven members, of whom three were women. On this list the following have continued membership until the present: Doctors W. Jarvis Barlow, George L. Cole, W. W. Beckett, F. M. Pottenger, Hill Hastings, Granville MacGowan, Joseph M. King, and Charles C. Browning, while twenty-one of the charter workers have passed on.

The opening and dedication of the Library took place on February 7, when Dr. William A. Edwards made the speech, still recalled, felicitating the profession and the city on the generous gift of Doctor Barlow.

On page one of the first guest registration book is the entry, "Library formally opened, February

7, 1907." The first signature is that of J. R. Renaker, of Lexington, Kentucky. Through the years, the names of many of the officers and members of the Los Angeles County Medical Association are to be found on the pages of this book. The name of Dr. George Dock is probably the one most often found, as he had the excellent habit of registering at each visit. On these pages are also to be found the names of many eminent men who have visited the library, the most distinguished among them, perhaps, being Dr. William H. Welch of Johns Hopkins, and a close friend of Doctor Black who never lost his active interest in the institution.

The Barlow Medical Library building is of fire and earthquake-proof construction, and classic in architectural form. The building itself was given to a non-profit holding corporation, which also held the title to the buildings of the medical school. In 1909, the faculty decided to transfer its property to the State University, and at that time the library building was deeded to the University of California.

In 1907, Dr. and Mrs. Barlow were in Washington and obtained from the Library of the Surgeon-General a large number of files of valuable medical journals. The report of the librarian, in 1908, showed 1,912 bound volumes of books and periodicals, and 2,000 volumes of unbound journals. Very large gifts of books have come from the Los Angeles Public Library, the Pasadena Medical Library, and the Alhambra Public Library, and also from a great many private individuals, including the families of physicians at whose death their libraries, instead of being broken up and scattered, were so donated.

As already stated, in 1909, the Barlow Medical Library building was deeded to the regents of the State University; but until October, 1934, the Library was housed in the building, and during all these years a portion of the librarian's salary was paid by the Los Angeles Medical Department of the University of California.

The Barlow Medical Library, therefore, may be looked upon as the embryo or nucleus of a large, fully-equipped and well-sustained library

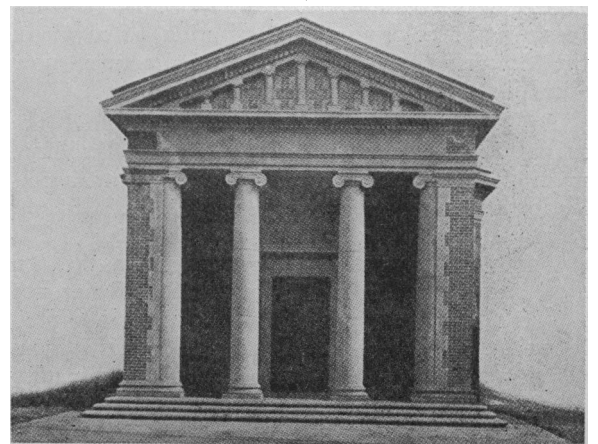


Fig. 4.—The Barlow Medical Library Building at 742 North Broadway, Los Angeles.

of our present day. Convention in nomenclature gives the term "large library" only to institutions having more than 10,000 volumes; and it is interesting that the Barlow Medical Library has grown to belong to the "large library" group. The last report showed 18,119 volumes, exclusive of unbound periodicals and duplicates; and unbound volumes would bring the number well on to 30,000 volumes.

During the period of the existence of the Barlow Medical Library it was served by six presidents: Dr. Milbank Johnson, the late Dr. Stanley Black, the late Dr. Walter Lindley, Dr. William Duffield, the late Dr. T. C. Lyster, and Dr. George Dock. There have also been six librarians: Dr. Milbank Johnson, Miss Mary Williams, Miss Jessie Wier, Mrs. Katherine Ingham, Mrs. Ida D. Fellows and Mrs. Mary E. Irish. The Library's growth and excellent condition is very largely due, therefore, to the untiring interest and energy of these faithful officers who have balked at nothing, if it seemed necessary for the welfare of their trust.

#### SOURCES OF SUPPORT OF THE BARLOW LIBRARY

The library has received support from many sources. First, by dues of members, many of

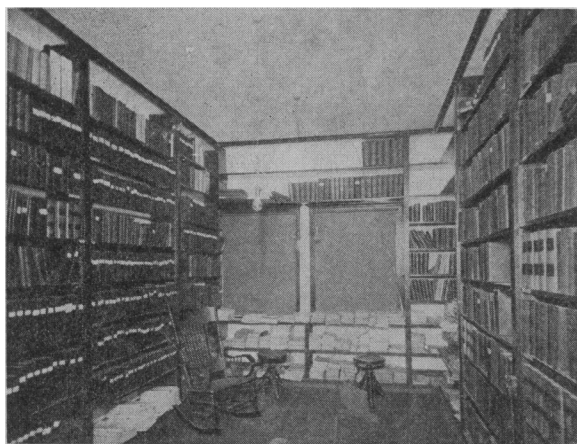


Fig. 5.—The original library room in the Hendryx Laboratory Building.

whom belonged to the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the Los Angeles Department of the University of California, and the Los Angeles and California Medical Associations. Sections of the Los Angeles County Medical Association also aided in the upbuilding of departmental collections, through subscriptions and purchases of books and magazines, and the payment for binding or by direct money contributions. In addition to such aid there have been, as mentioned, many gifts of money, books and periodicals from interested individuals.

#### TRANSFER OF BARLOW LIBRARY TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

On November 7, 1932, the Board of Trustees of the Barlow Medical Library Association presented resolutions to the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Medical Association submitting a plan for transferring the Barlow Library to the County Medical Association. The

membership of the Board of Trustees at that time included the following physicians: Dr. George Dock, president; Dr. A. Elmer Belt, vice-president; Dr. H. E. Schiffbauer, secretary-treasurer; Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow, Dr. George H. Kress, Dr. Merrill Hollingsworth, Dr. T. C. Lyster, Dr. William Duffield, Dr. Carl Rand, Dr. C. C. Browning, Dr. Joseph M. King, Dr. W. W. Beckett, Dr. R. G. Taylor, Dr. Harlan Shoemaker, Dr. Donald Frick, and Dr. Carl Howson.

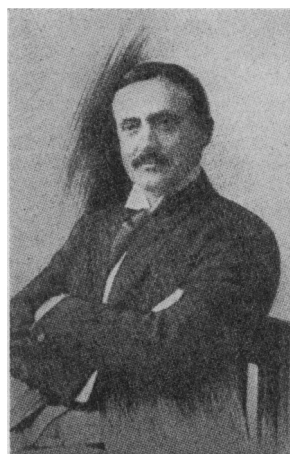


Fig. 6.—Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow, whose donation of the Barlow Medical Library Building laid the foundation for the collection that is now the library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The resolutions adopted by the Board are as follows:

*"Resolved*, That the Barlow Medical Library Association, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereby tenders as a gift to the said Los Angeles County Medical Association all the books, periodicals, literature, stacks, bookcases, files, and all the personal property of the said Barlow Medical Library Association, provided that the said Los Angeles County Medical Association shall agree to keep and perform the hereinafter stated terms and conditions. Upon written acceptance by said Los Angeles County Medical Association of such gift, upon said terms and conditions, and upon provision by said Los Angeles County Medical Association of fit and adequate quarters for said Library, and upon its being in a position to take over the maintenance of said Library, the officers of this Association are authorized and directed to deliver to the Los Angeles County Medical Association all the above described personal property; . . . and be it further

*"Resolved*, That this offer of gift of said Library upon the terms and conditions aforesaid may be withdrawn by this Association by resolution of its Board of Trustees, unless the Los Angeles County Medical Association shall on or before January 1, 1935, accept this offer in writing, and shall, on or before said date, be in a position to take and maintain said Library in fit and adequate quarters."

#### THE LIBRARY BUILDING OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Following this act by the Barlow Library Trustees, steps were immediately taken by the Los Angeles County Medical Association to accept the proffered gift; and with just pride it has accomplished this two and one-half months prior to the limit of the stated period, so that the books are now all housed in the beautiful library building at 634 South Westlake Avenue. The reading rooms are most attractive, and every provision for quiet

study has been well planned. The bibliography stack and table give ample space for research of the literature. New books are on display in the main reading room; rare books in their own particular niche; special sciences are grouped most conveniently for use on the mezzanine floor, while other late and standard volumes are placed in the reference room. About 250 current periodicals are displayed in an alcove off the main reading room, thereby providing six months' files within easy reach.

#### VALUE OF MEDICAL PERIODICALS

The medical periodicals form the essential part of the Library, for they contain the fundamental contributions to medical literature. Included also are the most useful textbooks, systems of medicine, encyclopedias, and works on medical biography and bibliography. Through these means, the Library seeks to meet the needs of all classes of medical readers, from all who wish to keep up with the rapid advance of medical knowledge in general, to those who desire to make an exhaustive study of some special subject.

Members of the Special Libraries Association of Southern California, as well as physicians, whether residents of Los Angeles County or visiting, it is hardly necessary to state, are welcome to bring and seek to solve here all their medical problems.

#### THE FUNCTION OF A MEDICAL LIBRARY

A medical library is of service to its patrons in several ways. It helps keep the busy physician in touch with new discoveries in the healing science; it assists him in diagnosis and treatment; it aids in finding precedents in medico-legal cases; and it helps both in preparing medical papers and in making for such, correct bibliographies. No doctor can subscribe to all the medical journals; but a good medical library, if he will but use it, gives him the opportunity to read a great many periodicals and so to keep up with new discoveries wherever and whenever they are made.

Since the great value of a medical library lies in its journal files, the librarian is constantly trying to complete old files and to subscribe for the best of the new journals. It is always a difficult task to complete old files; but through membership in the Medical Library Association, with its exchange lists, this is gradually being accomplished, and many out-of-print journals are received that are unobtainable through other channels.

A medical library is especially necessary at the present day. Science and scientific research have made rapid strides since the inception of the library in 1907, and the records of these discoveries are all to be found in the Association's collections, as the first news of such scientific revelations and accomplishments comes through the pages of medical journals. It is the policy of this, the Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, as it was of the Barlow Medical Library Association, to index all journals as soon as they arrive, in order that physicians may know immediately about discoveries and their significance.

Special attention is also given to collecting works on medical topics concerning California and the Southwest, and to all material bearing on medical progress, or referring to or by medical men and women in this western area. Contributions to these topics, as well as to other lines of study appropriate to the Library, are suggested to those in a position to further the advancement of medical history and education.

At the time the gift of the Barlow Medical Library was made to the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the officers of the Barlow Medical Library Association were: Dr. George Dock, president; Dr. A. Elmer Belt, vice-president; Dr. H. E. Schiffbauer, secretary-treasurer. The Council of the Los Angeles County Medical Association has selected these same officers as the Administrative Committee of the Library under its new ownership.

From 303 physicians in Los Angeles County in 1897, to 3,918 physicians and surgeons in the County in 1934, according to the medical directory, among a population in the City of Los Angeles of 1,282,929, the need of still larger medical library facilities is very evident. Now, however, with this increase already made and the developed Barlow Library the property of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, supported by its entire membership and its various Sections, by unaffiliated physicians of Southern California, by the medical societies and groups, hospitals, universities and medical schools, the Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association will rapidly take its place in the foremost ranks of American medical libraries, and will so splendidly fulfill the purpose for which it was once dedicated, and for which it has been rededicated November 27, 1934; to afford a place for broad and intelligent research to physicians of Los Angeles County and of the Great Southwest.

634 South Westlake Avenue.

#### POSTURE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD\*

By C. L. LOWMAN, M. D.

Los Angeles

DISCUSSION by A. J. Scott, M. D., Los Angeles; Clifford Sweet, M. D., Oakland; Rodney F. Atsatt, M. D., Santa Barbara.

**P**OSTURE in childhood, implying a consideration of the skeletal alignment, or so-called body mechanics, along with bone diseases and deformities, should be of common interest to the pediatricist as well as to the orthopedist. Who, more than the child's physician, should be alert to potential conditions which may produce disabilities later in life?

If I can stimulate in you the same resolve to prevent future disabilities of the muscles, joints, and nervous system, that you have already shown in cases of asthenic and pretubercular children, I shall feel amply repaid for my efforts.

\*Read before the Pediatric Section of the California Medical Association at the sixty-third annual session, Riverside, April 30 to May 3, 1934.